

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10-18, 21, and 22 are pending in this application. Claim 20 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 1, 13, 21 and 22 are amended by the present amendment. As amended Claims 1, 13, 21, and 22 are supported by the original claims, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Substitute Specification filed December 13, 2006 was objected to; Claim 20 was objected to; Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 10-12, 18, and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Partio (U.S. Patent No. 5,393,102); and Claims 2 and 176 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Partio. Claims 13-16 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

The applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that Claims 13-16 include allowable subject matter.

With regard to the objection to the Substitute Specification filed December 13, 2006, an identical Substitute Specification is submitted herewith including a statement that no new matter is added. The Substitute Specification submitted with the Response to Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment filed July 24, 2006 included a clean version that did not incorporate all of the changes included in the marked version. Accordingly, the present Substitute Specification includes a marked version identical to the marked version submitted July 24, 2006, and a clean version that correctly incorporates all of the changes included in the marked version. Further, the abstract is amended to reflect the changes to the rest of the specification. No new matter is added. Accordingly, entry of the enclosed Substitute Specification is respectfully requested.

With regard to the objection to Claim 20, Claim 20 is canceled, making this objection moot.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 1 as anticipated by Partio, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 recites in part, “a set of first rupture members arranged to be parallel to each other, each of the first rupture members including a zone of weakness configured to initiate a tensile rupture.”

The outstanding Office Action cited screws 14 of Partio as “first rupture members.” However, it is respectfully submitted that screws 14 of Partio do not include *any* zone of weakness. In this regard, with respect to original Claim 13, the outstanding Office Action did not cite any portion of screw 14 of Partio as “a zone of weakness.” In fact, the outstanding Office Action indicated that Claim 13 included allowable subject matter. Thus, as Partio does not teach each and every element of amended Claim 1, Claim 1 (and all claims dependent therefrom) is not anticipated by Partio and is patentable thereover.

Amended Claims 21 and 22 also recite “each of the first rupture members including a zone of weakness configured to initiate a tensile rupture.” Accordingly, Claims 21 and 22 are patentable over Partio for at least the reasons described above with respect to Claim 1.

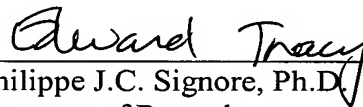
Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10-18, 21, and 22 is earnestly solicited.

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Reply to Office Action of January 3, 2007

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representatives at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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